

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05084 171338Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----171340Z 039218 /45

O 171157Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1689
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 5084

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IR
SUBJECT: IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH BHUTTO ON ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN

1. I CALLED ON IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZELLI MORNING MAY 17 TO DISCUSS MY RECENT TRIP TO TEHRAN. ZELLI OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT EVENING OF SATURDAY, MAY 14, HE HAD AT THE SHAH'S REQUEST SEEN BHUTTO AND DYBA THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND AZIZ AHMED TO PARIS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE. HE ALSO PASSED ON THE SHAH'S HOPE THAT THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE US AND PAKISTAN WOULD BE RESOLVED.

2. ZELLI SAID THAT BHUTTO AGREED TO SEND AZIZ AHMED TO CIEC. BHUTTO THEN WENT ON TO OUTLINE THE CHARGES HE WAS MAKING AGAINST US. ACCORDING TO ZELLI'S RENDITION, THEY WERE SIMILAR TO THE CHARGES PASSED ON TO AMBASSADOR BYROADE, NAMELY OF SPECIFIC CONTACTS BETWEEN AMERICAN OFFICERS AND PAKISTANIS, AND QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OF VISITORS FROM THE STATES JUST PRIOR TO AND DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. BHUTTO WENT ON TO TELL ZELLI THAT HE WAS UNDER "TERRIBLE PRESSURE" FROM HIS POLITICAL PARTY, THE PPP, TO SURFACE THE ANTI-AMERICAN ALLEGATIONS. THE PM

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05084 171338Z

SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO DO IT AND STRONGLY DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US. BHUTTO SAID HE WELL UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS THAT DETERIORATING US-PAK RELATIONS COULD CAUSE TO THE GOP'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY STATES SUCH AS IRAN. THERE WOULD BE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON PAK FOREIGN POLICY IF THERE WERE A RUPTURE WITH THE US.

3. BHUTTO, WHILE SPEAKING ON THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN, ALSO TOLD ZELLI THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DROP THE WHOLE THING IF RELATIONS WITH THE US COULD CONTINUE ON A NORMAL BASIS. HE ADDED THAT HE IS EXPERIENCING STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS TO ACCEPT THE VISIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION WHICH WILL OFFER ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. BHUTTO KNOWS WELL, HOWEVER, THE DANGERS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS.

4. ZELLI THEN TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SAID TO BHUTTO THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS PLAYING A MISCHIEVOUS GAME. HE ALSO SAID HE GAVE THE PM HIS OPINION THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO THE ANTI-AMERICAN CHARGES. ZELLI SAID HE TOLD BHUTTO THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH ME AND OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ZELLI WAS IMPRESSED BY THE REITERATION OF THE U.S. DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND ITS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE US. ZELLI SAID HE ALSO TOLD BHUTTO THAT HE IS CONVINCED AMERICA HAS NO DESIRE TO UNDERMINE THE PRIME MINISTER OR HIS GOVERNMENT.

5. THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT AFTER HIS MEETING WITH BHUTTO, HE SPENT SOME TIME WITH FINANCE MINISTER AND BHUTTO CONFIDANT HAFEZ PIRZADA. HE CONTENTS HE COUNSELED PIRZADA TO CALL OFF THE SCURRILOUS ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN WAGED IN THE PRESS BY SUCH COLUMNISTS AS H.K. BURKI AND ZENO. HE TOLD PIRZADA THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CREATE A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE PARIS TALKS. PIRZADA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT NED.

6. ZELLI TOLD ME THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE US APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN MAGNANIMOUS AND PATIENT AND HE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 05084 171338Z

BELIEVED THAT OUR STATESMANLIKE STANCE WOULD PAY OFF IN THE LONG RUN.

7. I THEN BRIEFED THE AMBASSADOR ON THE TALKS I HAD WITH THE SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY IN TEHRAN. I EMPHASIZED THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING WITH AZIZ AHMED AND NOTED THAT WE WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISTURBED WITH THE CHARGES AGAINST US. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT OUR PATIENCE WAS WEARING THIN AND IF SUCH UNFOUNDED AND BASELESS CHARGES CONTINUE AGAINST US, OUR MAGNANIMITY COULD RAPIDLY EVAPORATE. THE SECRETARY WOULD ENTER THE TALKS, HOWEVER, WITH A DESIRE TO RETURN OUR RELATIONS TO THEIR FORMER AMICABLE STATE.

8. WHILE AMBASSADOR ZELLI IS SURE THAT BHUTTO WAS SINCERE WHEN HE SAID THAT HE IS PREPARED TO DROP THE ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN, I AM NOT SURE WHAT BHUTTO MAY HAVE MEANT WHEN HE SAID "IF RELATIONS WITH THE US COULD CONTINUE ON A NORMAL BASIS." BHUTTO COULD MEAN THAT HE ESSENTIALLY WANTS OUR RELATIONSHIP TO RETURN TO THAT WHICH EXISTED PRE-APRIL 28. HE COULD ALSO BE IMPLYING THAT

AZIZ AHMED WILL ASK FOR CERTAIN TRADE-OFFS IN EXCHANGE FOR BHUTTO
DROPPING HIS CAMPAIGN. OBVIOUS COMPONENTS OF SUCH A TRADE-OFF
WOULD BE THE REPROCESSING AND ARMS
SUPPLY ISSUES. I WILL BE ADDRESSING THIS AT GREATER LENGTH IN A
SEPARATE MEESAGE GIVING OUR THOUGHTS ON THE PARIS TALKS.
CONSTABLE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTIAMERICAN, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA05084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770175-0035
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770550/aaaabqsg.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e963d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2494555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRANIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH BHUTTO ON ANTI- AMERICAN CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, IR, (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e963d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009